Amendment to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1.-11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Previously amended): The method of servicing a plurality of vending machines situated at disparate locations relative to one another within a location area, comprising the steps of:

a) compiling vending machine data to update sales and cash flow information, providing operational status and machine ID information on each said vending machine, so as to provide a separate, updated data stream for each machine

b) repeatedly transmitting said updated data stream utilizing monodirectional RF transmission only, via a separate transmitter associated with each vending machine;

c) adjusting the transmission characteristics of each said individual transmitters associated with each machine, providing multiple overlapping transmissions from separate transmitters to a designated reception area;

d) repeating steps a-b, while

e) positioning a service vehicle within said reception area;

f) receiving said multiple overlapping transmissions from each of said separate transmitters at said service vehicle within said reception area, providing multiple received data streams;

g) utilizing said multiple received data streams to pull inventory from said service vehicle;

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h) stocking each said vending machine as needed utilizing said pulled inventory.

13. (Currently amended): The method of Claim 12, wherein after step "h." there is provided the further step "I." of resetting each machine at said machine location, so as to ~~reflect~~ include the inventory stocked in each machine in step "h.".

14. (Previously amended): The method of servicing a plurality of vending machines situated at disparate locations relative to one another within a location area, comprising the steps of:

a) polling each said machine, compiling identification, and updated product sales and cash flow data for each machine, providing an updated data stream;

b) repeatedly transmitting said updated data stream utilizing monodirectional RF transmission only, via a separate transmitter located near each said machine at predetermined intervals, providing multiple overlapping transmissions within a reception area;

c) repeating steps a-b, while

d) providing a service vehicle having product inventory for said vending machines;

e) positioning said service vehicle within said reception area;

f) receiving said plurality of updated transmissions from each of said separate transmitters, providing a received data stream;

g) providing sales and cash flow data for each vending machine conveyed in said received data stream, providing a picking ticket;

h) pulling inventory from said service vehicle based upon said picking ticket, providing pulled inventory;

i̱) stocking each said vending machine as needed utilizing said pulled inventory.

15. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 14, wherein after step "h." there is provided the further step "I." of resetting each said vending machine at said vending machine location, so as to ~~reflect~~ the inventory stocked in each said vending machine in step "h.".

16. (Previously amended): The method of Claim 15, wherein after step "g." there is provided the additional step of providing location information on each said vending machine, and discerning an optimal route order for the servicing of each said vending machine, and providing sales and cash flow data for each said vending machine in said optimal route order.

17. (Currently amended): The method of servicing a vending machine, comprising the steps of:

a) polling said machine, compiling sales and cash flow data, providing a data stream;

b) repeatedly transmitting said data stream ~~from a transmitter~~, utilizing monodirectional RF transmission only, providing a transmissions within a reception area;

c) repeating steps a-b, while

d) providing a service vehicle having product inventory for said vending machine;

e) positioning said service vehicle within said reception area;

f) receiving said transmission in said reception area, providing a received data;

g) providing sales and cash flow data for the vending machine, providing a picking ticket;

h) pulling inventory from said service vehicle based upon said picking ticket, providing pulled inventory;

i) stocking said vending machine utilizing said pulled inventory.

18. (Currently amended): The method of Claim 17, wherein after step "i." there is provided the further step "j" of resetting each machine at said machine location, so as to ~~reflect~~ include the inventory stocked in each machine in step "i".

19. (Currently amended): The method of servicing a vending machine, comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a data stream from the vending machine via a monitoring assembly;

b) removing data from said data stream unrelated to inventory, cash, operational status, or machine ID utilizing programming in said monitoring assembly, providing an abbreviated data stream;

c) preparing a transmission string including an identification of the machine, inventory, cash data, and/or operational status of said machine from said abbreviated data stream, and forwarding said transmission string to a transmitter module;

d) transmitting, utilizing one-way RF transmission only, said transmission string, to broadcast within limited transmission range and within a limited, local area, and repeating said transmission to maintain a flow of data to a reception area; while

e) updating said transmission string as new data is received;

f) repeating steps a-e for other vending machines in the vicinity, so as to provide multiple transmissions to the reception area;

g) positioning a service vehicle within the reception area of said transmissions;

h) receiving said transmissions at said service vehicle;

I) inputting said transmissions into a portable computer;

j) conveying said transmissions via said portable computer to a route operator operating the service vehicle;

k) allowing said route operator to pull inventory and money change from said vehicle for servicing each of said vending machines so as to provide stock for filling said vending inventories.

20. (Currently amended): The method of Claim 19, wherein there is further provided the additional step "l." of said portable computer indicating to the route operator which machine is to be serviced next, based upon a calculation as to the best route to follow in servicing said vending machines, providing the next machine.

21. (prevously amended): The method of Claim 20, wherein there is further provided the additional step "m." of allowing the service personnel to convey said machine inventory to said next machine;

n) stocking said next machine, replenishing change, and resetting the machine;

o) repeating steps "l" through "n" until each of said vending machines is stocked;

p) returning to the service vehicle with the portable computer;

q) downloading data from the portable computer to a base office.

22. (Previously amended): The method of servicing a vending machine, comprising the steps of:

a) receiving data from a vending machine, providing received data;

b) compiling said data to discern activity, providing filtered received data;

c) preparing said filtered received data, providing a transmission string;

d) communicating said transmission string to a reception area **consisting of** the step of transmitting, utilizing mono-directional RF transmission said transmission string to a reception area in the vicinity of said vending machine;

e) repeating steps a-d, while

f) positioning a service vehicle within said reception area;

g) receiving said transmission;

h) utilizing data from said transmission to pull inventory and money change from said service vehicle for servicing said vending machine, providing pulled inventory;

I) conveying said pulled inventory to said vending machine;

j) stocking said vending machine

k) resetting said vending machine, resetting said filtered received data.

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